



February 27, 2006

TO: Citizens' Oversight Committee

FROM: Dianne Steinhauser – Executive Director

RE: Annual Report Content - Agenda Item 4

Dear Citizens' Oversight Committee Members:

Executive Summary

The Marin County Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan mandated the formation of a Citizens' Oversight Committee that would report directly to the public on the expenditures of sales tax funds. As part of this reporting, the Committee is required to publish an annual report.

At the December 5, 2005 Citizens' Oversight Committee meeting, Committee members reviewed several sample reports from similar committees for other transportation agencies and provided staff with recommendations regarding report content and layout. Those recommendations have been incorporated into the draft report content (attached).

Recommendation:

Provide feedback on the Annual Report content and layout.

Background:

The Marin County Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan mandated the formation of a Citizens' Oversight Committee that would report directly to the public on the expenditures of sales tax funds. As part of this reporting, the Committee is required to publish an annual report.

At the December 2005 meeting of the Citizens' Oversight Committee, Committee members provided direction on the content and format of the annual report as follows:

- The report should be organized around the Strategies.
- Discussion of the Expenditure Plan or other historical information should be limited to a brief explanation with a reference to the TAM website.
- The report should be “user-friendly:” 1) using illustrations and charts where possible to break up the text; and 2) written in clear English, with no acronyms

Next Steps:

Staff will use the Committee's comments on the draft content to develop a mock-up of the annual report. The report cannot be completed, however, until the Committee receives the results of the Fiscal Year 2004/2005 audit, which is still underway. Staff anticipates that the auditor, R.J. Ricciardi, will make a presentation to the Committee on the financial statements at the March meeting. At that time, staff will ask the Committee to review a revised annual report draft and provide final recommendations, prior to finalizing and distributing the report.

Attachments: Annual Report – Draft content

Transportation Authority of Marin Citizens' Oversight Committee Annual Report 2005

Headline: Transportation Authority of Marin
Subhead: First Annual Citizens' Oversight Committee Report to the Public
<Date>
Body:

The Citizens' Oversight Committee

The purpose of the Citizens' Oversight Committee is to review expenditures of the Transportation of Marin (TAM) for consistency with the voter-approved Marin County Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan and to report to Marin residents on how Measure A funds are being spent.

The Transportation Authority of Marin

The Transportation Authority of Marin was created for the purpose of administering sales tax Measure A, which supports transportation improvements in Marin County. TAM has also been designated as the Congestion Management Agency (CMA), which is responsible for programming funding for all transportation programs in Marin County. The TAM Board includes representatives from each city and town in Marin County, plus the five members of the Board of Supervisors.

Validation of the TAM Revenue and Expenditures

The members of the Citizens' Oversight Committee have reviewed TAM's Audited Statement of Revenue and Expenditures under Measure A July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005. The Committee can verify that all Measure A money has been responsibly administered in accordance with the terms of Measure A.

Measure A Ensures Public Input

The sales tax expenditure plan ensures geographic equity for all areas of the county in many ways, including by dividing infrastructure funds based on population and road miles. In addition, transit and road projects will be evaluated according to numerous benchmark criteria such as passengers per mile or passengers per hour for transit routes, and average daily traffic or accident history for roads. All decisions will be made with public input from all areas of the county. The Authority will be accountable to a 12-member Citizens' Oversight Committee of private citizens who will review all expenditures and report annually to the public.

TAM administrative costs will not exceed 5% of funds collected.

2005 Expenditures at a Glance

<numbers from Nancy in a graphic presentation>

History of Measure A

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Currently, over 90% of all trips originating in Marin County are made in autos on roads built to standards established decades ago. Marin's transportation network is being asked to do more and more all the time as travel increases. This comes as no surprise to people who live in Marin County. Over 90% of those responding to a recent survey agree that traffic congestion in Marin County is a moderate or major problem.

To improve transportation in Marin, hundreds of Marin residents, including elected officials and planners, met and participated in public forums to decide the best way to address Marin's transportation needs. The process was conducted by a Joint Committee of the Board of Supervisors, Marin County Transit District, and Marin County Congestion Management Agency, which included representation from each city and town in Marin. In 2003, participants created a "Transportation Vision" that outlined \$1.6 billion in desired projects, and noted that a source of local funding was the necessary first step to address the most immediate needs. A 1/2-cent sales tax was the most feasible option available.

Measure A was approved by a 71.2% margin on the November 2, 2004 ballot. The tax went into effect on April 1, 2005.

<For section below: Graph or pie chart showing tax allocation>

The funds from Measure A have been designated to four areas of improvement. The goal of these improvements is to improve mobility and reduce local congestion for everyone who lives or works in Marin County by providing a variety of high quality transportation options designed to meet local needs.

1. Develop a seamless local bus transit system that improves mobility and serves community needs, including special transit for seniors and the disabled (paratransit services). 55% of Measure A funds, \$182.38 million 20 year revenue projection.
2. Fully fund and ensure the accelerated completion of the Highway 101 Carpool Lane Gap Closure Project through San Rafael. 7.5% of Measure A funds, \$24.87 million 20 year revenue projection.
3. Maintain, improve, and manage Marin County's local transportation infrastructure, including roads, bikeways, sidewalks, and pathways. 26.5%, \$87.87 million.
4. Reduce school related congestion and provide safer access to schools. 11%, \$36.48 million.

Current and Upcoming Projects

A few examples of specific projects funded by the sales tax:

- The Highway 101 carpool lane through San Rafael will be completed seven years earlier with the sales tax.
- The Safe Routes to School program, which reduced school-related congestion by 15%, can continue after 2004 with this new funding.
- The number of school crossing guards will be increased near schools.

- Bus service will be analyzed and planned in the most cost effective manner.
- West Marin Stage Coach will continue after 2004 with this new funding.

In November of 2005, TAM launched a user-friendly website designed in part to help keep the public informed about current and upcoming projects, improvement to transit programs and much more. The website can be found at: <http://www.tam.ca.gov/>.

Members of the Oversight Committee

Jim LeLand	Northern Marin Planning Area
Barbara George	Central Marin Planning Area
Lori Lopin	Ross Valley Planning Area
Robert Burton	Southern Marin Planning Area
Patrick Seidler	Advocacy Group Representing Bicyclists & Ped.
Don Wilhelm	Environmental Organizations
Gina Palmo Feiner	Ross Valley School District
Ray Hirsch	Taxpayer Group
Ann Batman	League of Women Voters
Timothy Stanton	West Marin Planning Area
William Petrocelli	Business Organizations
Allan Bortel	Marin County Paratransit Coordinating Council
<i>Vacant</i>	Major Marin Employers

Alternates

Vacant
Walter Strakosch
Susie Weaver
Vacant
Sue Beittel
Mike Cunningham
Scott Tye
Jane Scurich
Vacant
Vacant
Annan Paterson
Vacant

Representing

Northern Marin Planning Area
Southern Marin Planning Area
Advocacy Group Representing Bicyclists & Ped.
Environmental Organizations
League of Women Voters
Taxpayer Group
West Marin Planning Area
Marin County Paratransit Coordinating Council
Central Marin Planning Area
William Petrocelli
School Districts
Major Marin Employers

Find Out More About TAM

More information about TAM and its transportation projects and programs can be found on the TAM website: <http://www.tam.ca.gov>. More information about the Citizens' Oversight Committee also can be found on the TAM website, or you can call XXX-XXXX.

<Perhaps stuck in somewhere if needed or there is room>

Facts:

- 79% of all trips made by Marin residents are within the county.
- 70% of all Marin morning commute traffic (all roads) originates in Marin.
- 70% of all Marin trips are made by people driving alone.
- 62% of Marin workers live in Marin.
- 21% of morning congestion comes from school traffic.